

REMARKS

Applicants are amending their claims, in order to add new claims 12-16 to the application, and to correct a typographical error in claim 1. All of the newly added claims are directed to a gear shift operating device for a contact-mesh type transmission. Claim 12 recites that such operating device includes a motor adapted to move a shift finger in a shift direction, and a guide slit, that, inter alia, guides the movement of the shift finger toward a neutral position, this neutral position having one point. Claim 12 further recites that, in the case of shifting, shifting is completed by movement of the shift finger from a position of the shift fork shaft corresponding to one gear to that of the shift fork shaft corresponding to another gear via the neutral position. Claims 13 and 14, dependent respectively on Claims 12 and 13, respectively recites that the guide slit includes a plurality of slant parts connected so as to come to one point at the neutral position, and recites that the guide slit includes a plurality of parallel parts connected to the plurality of slant parts. Claims 15 and 16, each dependent on Claim 12, recites that in the case of shifting from one gear to another gear, shifting is completed by the motor continuing to operate, and recites that the neutral position has only one point.

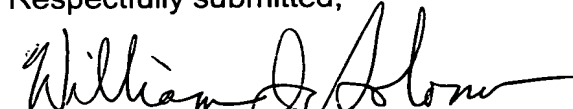
In connection with the newly added claims, note, for example, Figs. 3 and 6 of Applicants' original disclosure, together with the descriptions in connection therewith respectively on pages 8 and 10 of Applicants' substitute specification submitted with the Preliminary Amendment filed January 22, 2004. Note also, Figs. 13(a)-(f) and the description in connection therewith on pages 19 and 20 of Applicants' substitute specification.

European Patent Application No. EP 1 096 179 A2 to Steeby, et al, submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 21, 2005, in the above-identified application, is noted. This European Patent Application claims priority based on United States Patent Application No. 429658, filed October 29, 1999. Please note that Application No. 429658, filed October 29, 1999, has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,227,067. A further Form PTO/SB/08A, listing this U.S. Patent No. 6,227,067, is enclosed herewith. Clearly, consideration of No. 6,227,067 is proper, upon examination of the above-identified application, noting that the enclosed Form is being submitted prior to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application, clearly satisfying 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b); and that the necessary Form listing this document is submitted herewith.

Entry of the present Amendment, prior to examination of the above-identified application, with the above-identified application being examined in light of, inter alia, U.S. Patent No. 6,227,067 listed on the enclosed Form, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (503.43282X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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